

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Thursday, 20 October, 2025

UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

No artificial rain after cloud seeding: why Delhi's Rs 3.2 crore experiment fell flat

NEW DELHI:

Experts have termed Delhi govt's cloud seeding trials, held on Tuesday, a "hugely expensive, temporary and unsustainable" measure to deal with the capital's toxic pollution. Even if the artificial rain temporarily settles down the pollutants, the pollution will rise in one-two

Expensive

According to the MoU signed between the Delhi environment department

days, they say. According to the MoU signed between the Delhi environment department and IIT-



Kanpur, the budget for cloud seeding is over

Rs 3.2 crore for five trials —meaning one

trial run costs Rs 64 lakh. Three trials have been done in north Delhi, and none of them led to any major rain. Delhi's air quality index (AQI) has been hovering in the 'very poor' to 'poor' range for the past few days. Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for Science and

Environment, said, "The city has not yet recorded any substantial rainfall after cloud seeding. Even if the rains wash out the pollutants, the pollution will bounce back quickly. The impact lasts from hours to a couple of days." Stressing that the initiative is not sustainable, she said.

Trump says going to have a deal with India



Averted

Trump claimed he averted a war between India and Pakistan

US President Donald Trump claimed he averted a war between India and Pakistan by threatening hefty tariffs, suggesting a trade deal with India is imminent. He stated his intervention, coupled with a refusal to proceed with trade, prompted de-escalation. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday suggested that Washington could soon reach a trade agreement with India,

emphasising that the two countries have strong bilateral ties. "If you look at India and Pakistan, so I'm doing a trade deal with India, and I have great respect and love. As you know, for Prime Minister Modi, we have a great relationship," Trump said while speaking at a luncheon for APEC CEOs. Addressing business leaders, Trump revisited events from earlier this year and claimed he intervened to halt escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. According to him, his refusal to move ahead with a trade agreement and the threat of punitive tariffs.

Trump Calls PM Modi 'Killer'

Trump has said he "loves" Prime Minister Modi and described him as a strong



Trump's continued his Asia tour

India, however, has consistently denied any US role, maintaining that the decision to cease hostilities was reached at the request of the Pakistani DGMO to his counterpart. Officials said the understanding was finalised on May 10 following four days of cross-border exchanges that began after India's Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. Trump's comments came as he continued his Asia tour, arriving in South Korea ahead of his scheduled meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the APEC.



"If you look at India and Pakistan — I was doing a trade deal with India, and I have great respect and love for

Prime Minister Modi. They were really going at it," Trump added. He went on to say that he told both PM Modi

and Pakistan's leadership that the US would not do business with either country while they were fighting. "I told Prime Minister Modi, 'We can't make a deal with you right now because you're fighting with Pakistan.' Then I called the Pakistani Prime Minister and told him we can't make a deal with you because you are fighting India," Trump said. According to Trump, both countries agreed to end hostilities within 48 hours after he threatened to impose "250% tariffs," claiming that "seven planes had been shot down" and that his intervention "saved millions and millions of lives." POTUS has repeated this claim multiple times since May, he announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after what he described as a "long night".



An unforgettable experience': In historic Rafale sortie, President Droupadi Murmu takes to the skies

'Stronger India-Japan ties vital for global peace'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi on Wednesday and congratulated her on assuming office. He discussed the shared vision of advancing the partnership between the two countries and the leaders



underscored that stronger India-Japan ties are vital for global peace, stability



and prosperity. Sharing the details of the call in a post on X, PM Modi

said, "Had a warm conversation with Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan. Congratulated her on assuming office and discussed our shared vision for advancing the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, with focus on economic security.

Despite 2 decades as CM, Nitish still remains NDA's best bet

NEW DELHI: In the run up to Bihar assembly poll announcement, Nitish Kumar was seen as NDA's weak link - his fitness under scrutiny, focus on CM's gaffes in and outside legislatures, the image of 'sushashan babu' fraying as sensational murders and collapse of bridges made national headlines allowing RJD-led Mahagathbandhan to home in on him. Halfway into the campaign, his challenger Tejashwi Yadav of RJD



was goading voters by claiming that BJP will not repeat Nitish as CM if NDA retains power. But, as if on cue, BJP member and deputy CM said he will remain the CM, Pradhan insisted there is no vacancy for CM's post.

Rahul says Nitish 'remote controlled' by BJP

Rahul began his Bihar Assembly election campaign

Action plan

RJD and Congress, on Tuesday unveiled its election manifesto

Muzaffarpur Congress leader Rahul Gandhi began his Bihar Assembly election campaign on Wednesday by addressing his first rallies in the state. He will hold two joint public meetings with RJD leader



Tejashwi Yadav — the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial candidate — in Sakra (Muzaffarpur) and Darbhanga. Meanwhile, the Mahagathbandhan, which includes the Rashtriya Janata Dal

(RJD) and Congress, on Tuesday unveiled its election manifesto titled 'Bihar Ka Tejashwi Pran' for the Bihar Assembly polls. The announcement was made in the presence of RJD leader and alliance's Chief

Court seeks Centre's response; to hear Wangchuk wife's plea

Wangchuk, challenging his detention under the national security act (NSA)

Hearing

Sibal had requested that Wangchuk be permitted to exchange notes with his wife



sought a response from the Centre and the union territory of Ladakh within ten days, according to PTI. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria directed solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the UT, to file their response

and listed the matter for further hearing on November 24. The court also allowed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Angmo, to file a rejoinder if required. On October 15, the apex court had deferred the hearing after Angmo sought to file

an amended plea with additional grounds challenging Wangchuk's detention. The activist is currently lodged in Jodhpur Central Jail, Rajasthan. The court had earlier noted that, as per an affidavit from the jail authorities, Wangchuk's elder brother and lawyer had met him. During a previous hearing, Sibal had requested that Wangchuk be permitted to exchange notes with his wife, to which Mehta had said he had no objection.

'All mandir construction work completed: Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust

NEW DELHI: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Monday announced that all construction work related to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, including the main shrine of Ramlalla, has been completed. In a post on X, the trust said, "It is with great joy that we inform all devotees of Prabhu Shri Ramlalla Sarkar that all Mandir construction work has been completed.

Indian-origin businessman Darshan Singh Sahsi killed in Canada: Lawrence Bishnoi group claims responsibility

NEW DELHI: The Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate claimed responsibility for the killing of a 68-year-old Indian-origin businessman who was shot dead in his car in Canada in a targeted shooting. The incident occurred outside his home in Abbotsford, British Columbia, on Monday morning. The victim, Darshan Singh Sahsi, belonged to Ludhiana and was also the President of Canam International, a leading



firm in clothing recycling. Goldie Dhillon of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang posted on social media, claiming the murder was due to the denial of an extortion demand. The post alleged that Sahsi was involved in a drug trafficking operation and

was asked for money by the gang, which he refused to pay, even blocking their number. The sensational killing prompted brief lockdowns at nearby schools as the Abbotsford Police patrol officers responded to a report of a shooting in the 31300 block of Ridgeview Drive. Upon arrival, officers secured the area and confirmed the incident was confined to a single parked vehicle on the roadway.

Demolition drive at Sarojini Nagar market angers vendors

Delhi: An anti-encroachment sweep at the Sarojini Nagar market saw the Municipal Council (NDMC) remove shop extensions, awnings, signage, and permanent constructions from the places. Traders complained that the drive harmed 150 shops due to a lack of notification. Ashok Randhawa, head of the Sarojini Nagar Mini Market vendors' association, said civic body bulldozers and enforcement teams arrived at the market at 11pm after traders departed. They demolished awnings, and shop facades for around 150 shops between 11.30pm and 1am. Without our intervention, the damage could have been greater. All Delhi markets have awnings to shield against sun and rain, Randhawa said. NDMC stated, "We are consistently conducting anti-encroachment drives to maintain encroachment-free urban spaces and ensure unhindered



ONLY 45% OF CAPITAL BWG COMPOST WET WASTE

Delhi: The MCD has identified Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), which include large establishments like hospitals, hotels, and commercial buildings, as crucial in managing wet waste. A significant portion of Delhi's solid waste is wet waste, which, if properly managed through composting, can reduce the volume of landfill waste. The MCD has a responsi-

access to markets, footpaths, and public areas for visitors. NDMC launched a night-time anti-encroachment opera-

bility to ensure the proper disposal of solid waste, including wet waste. The city generates a substantial amount of solid waste daily (around 11,000 tonnes), but only a portion of it is processed. The Supreme Court has criticized the MCD for its failure to implement the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

, and for not ade- tion as part of its enhanced anti-enforcement push to recover public areas and improve urban accessibility.

Women and young people are the main drivers of EPFO's 1.46 million

Delhi : According to an official statement, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which oversees the retirement savings of salaried employees, recorded a net addition of 1.46 million subscribers in March. Slightly more than half of these subscribers enrolled for the first time. 754,000 new members joined EPFO in March. Net subscriber additions grew by 1.15 percent from March 2024 to the current month, according to preliminary data. This is due to more job opportunities and a greater understanding of employee



benefits, both of which have been bolstered by EPFO's outreach initiatives. March saw a sequential increase of 2.03% and an annual increase of 0.98% in new subscribers. Female employees and young workers' participation rose, according to the report. A total of 445,000 new members were added in March, with 58.94% of those

users falling into the 18-25 age bracket. The additions of this age group increased by 4.21% on a monthly basis and by 4.73% on an annual basis. After taking outgoing employees into consideration, the net payroll addition for this category was 668,000, representing a rise of 6.49% on an annualized basis.

Assembly in Delhi lifts the gallery glass shield to promote openness and media freedom

Delhi: The glass shield encircling Delhi has been lowered, as stated by Speaker Vijender Gupta, enabling the media to cover the proceedings unimpeded. The decision was hailed by Gupta as a "significant step" towards "greater democratic accountability"

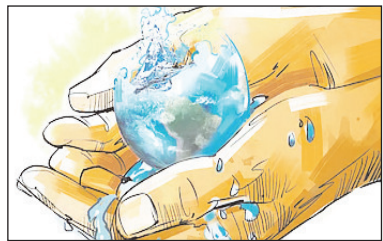
and the restoration of the assembly as an open and people-focused institution during a press conference. He declared, "This step reaffirms the Delhi legislative assembly's commitment to empowering the media and making democratic processes more visible

to the public," stressing the importance of openness in the assembly's activities. To deter people from throwing objects from the first-floor gallery into the hall, the glass panels were put in 2022 by then-Speaker. Ram Niwas Goel under



Jal Board receives Rs 1,400 crore from Delhi govt. for summer action plan and important projects

Delhi: Officials announced that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has been granted Rs 1,400 crore by the Delhi government to accelerate ongoing projects and put its Summer Action Plan into action. The Summer Action Plan, which includes initiatives like installing water ATMs and GPS monitoring of water trucks to guarantee efficient water distribution during the busy summer months, has been allocated 500 crore rupees out of the entire budget. Water shortages may be avoided and supplies can run smoothly throughout the summer if the funds are released on schedule, according to an official. To handle long-term water management needs, the remaining amount will be used to extend the city's sewer network and create new sewage treatment plants. The aforementioned sums, along with those that were unable to be distributed in March of this year, were allegedly allotted as part of the annual budget. A thorough Rs 9,000-crore strategy concentrating on cleanliness, increasing access to potable water, and modernizing the water distribution system was earlier unveiled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in an effort to fortify Delhi's water infrastructure.



Delhi govt reshuffles 42 IAS and DANICS officers shifted or given extra charge

Delhi: Delhi govt effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle in the capital evening, transferring or giving additional charge to 42 IAS and DANICS officers. The reshuffle was prompted by the Union home ministry's order earlier in the day in which it moved 12 Delhi bureaucrats of UT cadre to other states and transferred the equal number of officers to the capital. Following the order of LG VK Saxena, the services department of Delhi govt issued an order giving additional charge of environment and forest department of additional chief secretary (industries) Bipul Pathak, a 1992-batch IAS officer and the senior most bureaucrat in the



city. Pathak replaced Anil Kumar Singh, who was moved to Jammu and Kashmir by MHA. Prashant Goyal was transferred to the urban development department as additional chief secretary from the transport department while Navin Kumar Chaudhary, the additional

chief secretary of irrigation and flood control department, was given the additional charge of public works department. A Anbarasu was moved from PWD to the services department, while he will remain the principal secretary of home department.

Advertising on FOBS should be authorized by the government

Delhi: In order to raise more money for their maintenance, the Delhi government has chosen to allow advertising on approximately 120 pedestrian bridges, according to In order to better maintain the foot overbridges, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said that he instructed the department's engineers to develop a thorough proposal. A lot of these bridges need to have their escalators and lifts fixed because they're in bad shape.

Support for Savarkar and other figures' portraits in the Assembly

Delhi: The Delhi Assembly premises will soon be graced with the paintings of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, founder of the Arya Samaj, independence hero Veer Savarkar, and educational reformer Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. This matter was resolved by the assembly's general purpose committee during a meeting presided over by Speaker Vijender Gupta. "Recognising their enduring contributions to India's freedom struggle, social reform and educational renaiss-



sance, the committee resolved to install their statues...This decision reflects the assembly's commitment to preserving and celebrating the legacy of these visionary leaders who played roles in shaping the nation's moral, cultural, and intellectual foundations," according to the assembly. According to BJP MLA

Abhay Verma, who put forward the idea, these notable people were instrumental in the national movement, social change, and educational advancement of India. According to opposition leader Atishi, AAP MLAs had also wanted to put Savitribai Phule's photograph up, but the BJP had stopped them.

Tihar, which is overflowing, wants to build a new facility

Delhi: According to sources, the Tihar administration has written to the Delhi government to request the identification and allocation of 400 acres of land for a new complex in response to chief minister Rekha Gupta's budget announcement. It is anticipated that the new jail will be able to accommodate 8,000 prisoners. A few days ago, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi government's department of land and construction received an official communication in this respect. The Tihar administration reportedly emphasized in their letter the urgent need for land to build new prisons that could house 5,000-8,000 prisoners. Since existing prison facilities are already functioning much above capacity,



this action is considered necessary to relieve the extreme strain on them. The letter also emphasized how improbable it is that the initiative to build a high-security prison at Narela will address the overcrowding problem because the facility's approved capacity of 256 is far too little to accommodate the increasing needs of the inmate population. Given that Tihar is one of the biggest prisons in the nation, the new facility is viewed as a vital remedy.

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

The BJP government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on Tuesday, March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, a 31.56% increase from last year. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

Delhi CM promises jobs for Mohalla Clinic staff in Arogya Mandirs

Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta assured protesting Mohalla Clinic staff that they will be absorbed into the upcoming Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, even as the government begins phasing out clinics in areas where the new centres are being established. Her assurance came after scores of doctors, paramedics, and other clinic workers gathered outside her office demanding clarity on their future and protesting delays in salary disbursement. The protest, held during the CM's Janata Darbar, was



triggered by the government's recent decision to withdraw Mohalla Clinics that overlap with the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. "We will engage you on a priority basis in the new system that the government is creating," Gupta told the staff, adding that preference will be given

to existing personnel once the transition begins. Delhi government intends to wind down existing Mohalla Clinics in areas where Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are coming up, since both facilities provide primary healthcare. According to minutes from a meeting on

2 weeks since blaze, Dilli Haat reopens

Delhi: Around 130 traders returned to their place of work to start from scratch, unpacking goods and setting up their shops as the iconic Dilli Haat in INA reopened. Two weeks after a major fire destroyed at least 30 stalls and damaged stock worth lakhs. Though their number was lower than usual, visitors and tourists too flocked to the huge market complex, a part of which was still under renovation due to the blaze. Process is also underway to upgrade electrical connections at the market for safety purposes. But while traders said they are relieved that work has resumed, there are still apprehensions about the safety measures introduced after the April 30 fire incident.

the operationalisation and staff may be of Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Mohalla Clinic doctors allowed to continue only for a year. —or until new person-

Campaign to Reclaim Campus Space Launched by AAP Student Wing

Delhi: Reclaim student politics" is the goal of the Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP), the student arm of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), according to Delhi. A movement that "rejects muscle power and bias, and backs merit" has been launched by Arvind



Kejriwal, the national convenor of the AAP, and is appealing to students all around the nation to become involved. Advertisement Forget Ads Right now In the upcoming DUSU elections, ASAP will run a strong campaign, continuing its objective of spreading Kejriwal's vision of alternative

politics to other universities. The student wing's members—Yash Phogat, Deepak Bansal, and Yuvraj Tanwar—discussed their plans for the future. The influence that Kejriwal has on Delhi's politics is being acknowledged on a global scale.

Smiling faces of children with disabilities: Exposure visit gave new experience

The children enthusiastically visited the various sites and gained knowledge

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

PRAYAGRAJ. UNDER THE Integrated Education Scheme in Prayagraj district, an exposure visit program was organized for the holistic development of children with disabilities studying in council primary and upper primary schools under the able guidance of District Basic Education Officer Devvrat Singh and in coordination with District Coordinator Integrated Education Vikas Pandey. As part of the program, three exposure visits were conducted for a total of 150 children



dren with disabilities from various blocks of the district. The children were taken on a tour of informative, cultural, and historical sites such as Anand Bhawan, Planetarium, Allahabad Museum,

Chandrashekhar Azad Park, Victoria Park, and Sports Park.

The children enthusiastically visited the various sites and gained knowledge about history, science, and culture. A special highlight

of the program was the mass birthday celebration of nine differently-abled children—Kumari Roshni (Saidabad Block), Krishna (Holagarh), Aryan Kushwaha (Aarchana), Devraj (City Area), Mohammad Ayan (City Area), Annol (City Area), and Ayan (City Area)—whose birthdays were today. The smiles and joy on the children's faces as they cut the cake filled the atmosphere. Chief guest of the program, Sanjay Kumar Kushwaha, Assistant Director of Education (Basic), Prayagraj Division, celebrated the children's birthdays and said, "The smiles of these special children are our greatest achievement. Such excursions give new direction to their confidence and desire to learn." Vikas Pandey, District

Coordinator of Integrated Education, said, "Our goal is to provide opportunities for children with disabilities in every aspect of life. When these children learn history, science, and culture firsthand, they are inspired to connect with society and progress." The program was actively attended by Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Block Education Officer, City Area; Mukesh Saini, Souls Ark Coordinator; Ramashankar Prajapati (social worker); all the special educators, physiotherapists, and the Scout Guide team, who encouraged the children and ensured their safety and care throughout. This program demonstrated that integrated education efforts are not limited to teaching, but also provide a means to connect children with all life experiences.

In view of the arrival of the Chief Justice of India, the DM inspected Maheshwari Prasad Inter College



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Harraipur Kaushambi. In view of the proposed arrival of the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Justice Shri Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai, at Maheshwari Prasad Inter College, Alamchand, on November 1, 2025, District Magistrate Dr. Amit Pal inspected the security arrangements on Wednesday and issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials.

The District Magistrate directed the District Panchayat Raj Officer to ensure cleanliness of the venue and route, and the Circle Officer to ensure parking arrangements and all security measures. Present on the occasion were Sub-District Magistrate Chail Arun Kumar, Circle Officer Abhishek Singh, Executive Engineer PWD Harvansh Singh, Principal Jitendra Nath Srivastava, and other officials and teachers.

If daughters study, they will prosper - ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Tharwai Education plays a crucial role in achieving any goal. Education holds special significance in achieving success. Today, daughters are boldly stepping out of their homes and moving forward. Keeping in mind the safety and respect of daughters, the government launched an initiative called Mission Shakti, with the theme "Empowered Women, Prosperous State," which aims to empower women. This government initiative and vision is proving successful today, and daughters are leading in every field, be it education or sports, and bringing glory to the country. As part of Mission Shakti Phase 5.0, a grand Mission Shakti awareness program was held at Prayag PG College, Hetapatti, in the Tharwai police station area. ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh was the chief guest at the event. Station House Officer (SHO) Tharwai Santosh Kumar Pandey and Mission Shakti Center in-charge Nidhi Patel were present with their team for the awareness program. All

guests were honored with tilak (a mark of respect), badges, and angavastra (clothes). During the Mission Shakti program, ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh highlighted Mission Shakti and provided information about helpline numbers related to women's honor and rights, including the Women Power Line 1090, Women Helpline 181, Child Helpline 1098, Chief Minister Helpline 1076, the common police emergency service number 112, and the Cyber Helpline 1930. ACP Tharwai explained how to achieve success, emphasizing the importance of education. He emphasized that no girl should be deprived of education. He emphasized that if anyone creates any kind of obstacle, she can immediately seek help, and that special emphasis will be placed on education. It was also stated that if any rogue makes inappropriate comments, whistles, or harasses or teases women and girls on their way to school, they should not panic. Call the number provided and you will receive assistance within a short time, and action will be taken.

The driver who was taken from his home was murdered and his body was dumped on the road

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Tedhimod Kaushambi

A driver from Andawa village, under the Kokhraj police station area, was lured from his home at 10:00 pm on Tuesday night, murdered, and his body was dumped on the road. A patrol vehicle spotted the body lying on the road at midnight and informed the police. Police arrived at the scene, took the deceased's body into custody, and sent it for a post-mortem examination. Police believe he died in a road accident, while his sister clearly states that he was murdered after being lured from his home. Even after his death, the abductor did not inform his family about the incident. However, only after the police posted a photo on social media did the family learn of his death, causing an uproar within the family.



The family, weeping, reached the police station. According to information, Munnu Gautam, a resident of Andawa village, under the Kokhraj police station area, died a few years ago. His wife, who is mute and unable to speak, has also died. Since Munnu's death, they have a son, Radhe. Shyam Gautam, age 23, and his daughter Radhadevi live in a family. Radheshyam used to earn his living by driving a vehicle for the family and feed himself and his sister. Radha Devi, sister of the deceased Radheshyam, alleges that Rinku Saroj of the village

called my brother Radheshyam from home on Tuesday night at 10 o'clock to drive a tractor. Due to an old rivalry, he murdered my brother Radheshyam and threw his body on the road. Rinku Saroj, who called him from home and took him away, did not give any information about the incident to the family members and the family members were identified when the photo of the accident went viral through mobile.

Even after his death, the tractor owner did not tell anything about the incident to the family members. Radheshyam used to support

his family by driving a vehicle. Last night, an attempt is being made to declare the death of tractor driver Radheshyam in a road accident after being hit by an unknown vehicle. After calling him from home and taking him away, the statement of his sister is being ignored so that the murderer can get relief. The outpost police say that the highway The body was lying on the shore. When the patrolling people saw it, they informed the Shahjapur police post. On receiving the information, Shahjapur post in-charge Ganesh Kumar took the body in his custody, prepared the Panchayat Nama and sent it for PM. In this entire incident, the role of Rinku Saroj, who called him from home and took him away, is under question. He needs to be arrested and interrogated strictly about the incident so that the cause of Radhe Shyam Gautam's death can be revealed.

Safety and awareness information provided to girls under Mission Shakti



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Under Mission Shakti Phase 5.0, on Wednesday, the police team from Kaundhiara police station provided safety awareness information to girls at Rajkumar Singh Memorial Public School in Sehra village. The program was led by Station House Officer Kuldeep Sharma. The Mission Shakti team included female sub-inspector Nidhi Singh Chauhan, sub-inspector Preeti Kumari, sub-inspector Avshesh Kumar, constable Lakshmi Sharma, constable Sanjeev Rajput, and constable Brijendra Singh. The police team informed the girls about vari-

ous women's safety and assistance schemes run by the government and shared guidelines related to self-defense and awareness, as directed by senior officials. During the program, the girls were informed about important helpline numbers: Women Power Line 1090, Domestic Violence Helpline 181, Child Helpline 1098, Chief Minister Helpline 1076, Police Emergency Service 112, Health Services 102, Ambulance 108, and Cyber Helpline 1930. The police team urged the girls to be self-reliant, alert, and fearless, and urged them to use these helpline numbers without hesitation in case of any emergency.

Farmers can increase their income by taking advantage of schemes - Divisional Commissioner

Prayagraj

Under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Prayagraj, Soumya Agarwal, the Joint Divisional Rabi Productivity Seminar 2025 of Kanpur and Prayagraj divisions was held in the District Panchayat auditorium on Wednesday. Divisional Commissioner Prayagraj and Secretary Agriculture Indra Vikram Singh, and District Magistrate Prayagraj Manish Kumar Verma inaugurated the seminar by lighting the lamp. At the



beginning of the seminar, the Divisional Commissioner inaugurated the exhibition organized by the Agriculture and other departments in the District Panchayat premises by cut-

ting the ribbon. He inspected the stalls of various departments and gathered information about products and schemes. Mobile phones were distributed to Krishi Sakshis trained in the Natural

Farming Scheme at the seminar organized by the Divisional Commissioner Prayagraj. Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Prayagraj Commissioner Soumya Agarwal said that the purpose of the seminar was to listen to the suggestions and problems of the farmers and to resolve them. He said that the officials of the concerned departments should take action on the suggestions and problems raised by the farmers from various districts and ensure their resolution.

He said that

this is a very effective forum for understanding and addressing farmers' problems. To increase their income, farmers should produce crops according to market demand. Producing crops in areas where demand is high can yield good profits. The Divisional Commissioner directed all the Chief Development Officers of both divisions to visit areas in their respective districts within the next 10 days to resolve farmers' problems. He said that the government is committed to the progress and develop-

ment of farmers and has implemented several schemes for this purpose, and the government is also providing subsidies for these schemes. Farmers can maximize their income by taking advantage of these schemes. He stated that the experiences shared by farmers here are exemplary for other farmers, and farmers can draw inspiration from them and cultivate accordingly. The Divisional Commissioner assured the seminar that appropriate solutions would be provided to farmers' problems.

The actions of the Excise Department and the Saini Kotwali police have once again tarnished the uniform

The Barabanki Narcotics Department seized 60 kg of marijuana in Kaushambi

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

A large marijuana trade is rapidly expanding in Kaushambi district. From the police station to the excise department, everyone appears to be falling to the ganja mafia. The excise department and police stations never take major action against the marijuana mafia. When major action is taken against the marijuana mafia, it is then followed by narcotics department officers. Ganja is being sold openly in the district's crossroads, markets, and



villages. The public is familiar with marijuana sales. 30,000 people in the district smoke marijuana daily, and marijuana is readily available. However, the lack of concrete action against the marijuana mafia raises serious questions

about the actions of the excise department and police stations. After the Narcotics Department recovered 60 kg of marijuana from the Saini Kotwali area on Wednesday, the actions of the excise officers and the Saini Kotwali

police once again tarnish the image of their uniform. A large marijuana trade had been operating openly on GT Road, just a few steps from the Saini Kotwali, for a long time. On Wednesday morning, the Narcotics Department team seized the marijuana. After conducting a raid, Sanjay Tripathi alias Dharmendra son of Jagdish Prasad resident of Akbarpur Sipah police station Kada Dham and Sandeep Kumar son of Amritlal resident of Newari police station Karari and Pankaj Vishwakarma son of Som Sharma resident of Murain ka Purwa police station Saini and

Ramkumar Sonkar son of Amritlal resident of Shahjahanpur police station Kokhraj and Rahul Yadav son of Manoj Kumar resident of Durga Sarai police station Bagh Rai district Pratapgarh and Sunil Jaiswal son of Phoolchand Jaiswal resident of Murain ka Purwa police station Saini and Sunil Kumar Patel son of Parmanand Patel resident of Murali ka Purwa police station Bagh Rai district Pratapgarh were recovered from the spot after which a case was registered against them and they were arrested. The team recovered an electronic weighing scale, 6

mobile phones, two bikes, approximately Rs 15,000 in cash and 59 kg 245 grams of ganja.

The value of the recovered ganja is said to be approximately Rs 15 lakh. Ganja was being sold openly by the mafia in the area. Police officers were continuously giving instructions to take action against the mafia but the Excise Officer and Kotwali police had no action against those involved in illegal ganja trade. There has been continuous favour due to which the business of Ganja mafia was increasing day by day.

DM directs "Complainant Conferences" once a week in all tehsils

Prayagraj

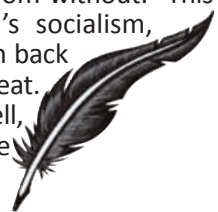
District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma on Wednesday directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates to ensure quality and timely disposal of public complaints, and to ensure timely investigation, action, and resolution of complaints. In light of the delays in resolving complaints and the lack of quality resolution, he directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates to organize a "Complainant Conference" once a week in the Tehsil meeting room. He directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates to list such cases involving repeated complaints of the same pub-

lic complaint, invite the complainant to the Tehsil meeting room, and conduct a public hearing with the officers and employees concerned, ensuring appropriate resolution of complaints as per the rules and informing them of the action taken. The District Magistrate stated that resolving public complaints is one of the government's highest priorities, and any form of negligence or indifference is unacceptable. He also directed that feedback be obtained from the complainant while ensuring quality redressal of such complaints and that the complainant be satisfied with the resolution.

Editorial

India-US relationship has survived darker times

Edward Heath, Great Britain's Prime Minister, felt the words wash over him, hot like a dragon's breath: "The United States had received nothing from India except a kick in the teeth, in exchange for \$¼ billion last year," President Richard Nixon raged. The Indians, Nixon went on, thought "the white nations had no choice but to come in and bail India out." Alarmed, British Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home stepped in. "The Indians were admittedly intolerably high-minded," he accepted. "But there was an important common interest in preserving Indian independence from Soviet and Chinese domination." The invective against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her nation, provoked by her refusal to back down on Bangladesh, continued in the privacy of Nixon's office, though: "A slippery, treacherous people," "bastards," "old witch," "b*tch". Even as the political leadership in both countries raged against each other, the relationship between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Research and Analysis Wing remained robust, historian Paul McGarr writes. In 1973, the head of Prime Minister Indira's secretariat, Prithvi Nath Dhar, and the chief of R&AW, Rameshwar Nath Kao, lobbied for CIA chief William Colby to visit New Delhi. As President Donald Trump appears to be leading the India-United States relationship into an abyss from which there is no return—adding restrictions to the outsourcing of jobs on the back of crippling tariffs—the period between 1971 and 1973 shows the two countries have been locked in airless places before. The intelligence services of both countries, though, found ways to bypass potholes and cul-de-sacs, ensuring strategic conversation continued. Little understood, India-US intelligence ties flourished in the shadow of the Cold War, as New Delhi resolutely proclaimed its commitment to non-alignment. Late in the summer of 1949, India was struggling to contain its first post-Independence insurgency, an uprising by communists in the Telangana region. The Indian Army, sent to Hyderabad to battle the Nizam's armies, found itself at war with peasant insurgents in Telangana. Thousands died in the brutal conflict, Jonathan Kennedy and Sunil Purushotham have recorded, as the Army herded Adivasis into concentration camps in near-starvation conditions. Less than forty-seven years old and with little experience in global politics, an unassuming police officer was tasked with helping India find the right tools to deal with the crisis. TG Sanjeevi, earlier a Superintendent of Police in Madras, and now Director of the Intelligence Bureau, was ordered to make a three-week visit to Washington. For decades before Independence, the Intelligence Bureau had been relentlessly focused on the threat of communist terrorism. Telangana was its first challenge after Independence—and, it seemed, its first potential failure. To Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, it seemed that the threat was transnational and a danger to the survival of the Indian republic. The colonial legacy meant India had a substantial relationship with the United Kingdom's intelligence services. The Security Service, popularly known as MI5, was a critical source of assistance in the first years after Independence. India became debilitatingly reliant on this relationship, Avinash Paliwal has recorded. "This is satisfactory," an MI5 memo on general dependence smugly noted—but India understood the need to widen its partnerships. George Kennan, then director of policy planning at the State Department, agreed with Prime Minister Nehru's assessment. To address the challenge, Kennan recorded, Sanjeevi would have to "look beyond India's borders and seek to influence policy in regard to dangers from without." This meant that, despite Nehru's socialism, America would help him push back against the Communist threat. The visit did not begin well, though. Sanjeevi was by the



Suman

What defines the real wealth of a nation? Is it the towering skyscrapers that shape its skyline, the bustling industries that fuel its economy, or the global influence it commands? Perhaps it's something much deeper—the well-being of its people, their minds, and their hearts. In a rapidly transforming India, where the pace of professional life is accelerating, workplace mental health has emerged as a crucial but often overlooked concern. As organisations strive for efficiency and output, the mental well-being of employees is under increasing strain. According to a survey by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the global economy loses an estimated \$1 trillion per year due to depression and anxiety alone. A study by Deloitte (2022) reveals that nearly 80 per cent of the Indian workforce faces some degree of mental health issues, yet a mere 20 per cent seek professional help. This alarming gap is exacerbated by the stigma associated with mental illness, inadequate awareness, and limited access to mental health services in workplace settings. A recent tragedy in Noida has brought the issue of workplace mental health into sharp focus. A bank employee took her own life after enduring harassment from her colleagues. The deceased left behind a five-page suicide note in which she revealed how her co-workers subjected her to derogatory slurs such as "bandariya" and "dimag se pagal". In the note, she named six of her colleagues, including two managers,



who allegedly contributed to her emotional breakdown. Another incident from Pune: a 26-year-old chartered accountant from Kerala took her own life after enduring four months of immense work pressure. Her mother's powerful letter to EY India sheds light on the "callous attitude" towards employee well-being that, unfortunately, seems to be a growing concern in many workplaces today. These heart-breaking incidents highlight the toxic environments that many Indian employees silently endure, emphasising the urgent need to address mental health issues in the workplace. For many Indian professionals, the culture of overwork, coupled with societal expectations, creates immense pressure to perform. Long working hours, tight deadlines, job insecurity, and an absence of work-life balance contribute to heightened stress, anxiety, and burnout. In a society where mental health is still a taboo topic, employees often refrain from discussing their struggles, fearing judgement or negative

career consequences. No job is worth a life, and it is time for a systemic change to ensure that every employee feels safe, valued, and heard. **Government Policies and Corporate Initiatives** India has made strides in addressing mental health in the workplace, but much progress is still required. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, provides a legal framework ensuring individuals' rights to mental health care, including mandated insurance coverage for mental health treatments. However, its corporate implementation remains limited. The National Mental Health Policy (2014) advocates for workplace mental health awareness and encourages supportive environments, though widespread adoption is yet to be seen. Nonetheless, companies like TCS and Wipro are pioneering employee wellness programs, offering counselling and stress management initiatives. The pandemic also spurred firms like Accenture, Google, and Microsoft to introduce teletherapy and burnout prevention strate-

gies. However, the government's 2024–25 Union Budget underscores a significant funding gap in addressing India's mental health challenges. Although the allocation for the National Tele Mental Health Programme has been increased to ₹90 crore from the previous year's ₹65 crore, this modest rise falls far short of the resources needed to meet the country's escalating mental health demands. A more comprehensive investment in workplace mental health remains critical for sustainable progress.

Role of Leadership

Corporate leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping workplace mental health. The tragic case of the Noida bank employee's suicide underscores the importance of leadership accountability in preventing workplace harassment. Had there been a proactive, supportive encouraged workplace bullying and provided a safe space for employees to raise their concerns, the outcome might have been different. Leaders must take responsi-

bility for creating a healthy, inclusive work culture that discourages toxic behaviour. Creating a mental health-positive workplace culture requires a top-down approach where leaders not only encourage open dialogue but also normalise seeking help for mental health issues. Human Resources departments need to adopt a proactive role in identifying mental health risks and offering solutions, wellness check-ins, and mental health days.

A Holistic Approach

While government policies and corporate initiatives are crucial, sustainable change requires a multi-faceted approach.

Increased Awareness and Training: Regular mental health awareness campaigns within organisations can help destigmatise mental health issues. Training managers and employees to recognise early signs of distress and offer support will create a safer environment for discussing mental health concerns. **Mental Health Infrastructure:** Companies need to invest in mental health infrastructure, including easily accessible counselling services, confidential helplines, and designated wellness officers. **Telehealth platforms,** which have seen increased use since the pandemic, can play a critical role in connecting employees with mental health professionals. **Work-Life Balance:** Flexible working hours, hybrid models, and vacation policies that prioritise rest over constant productivity can significantly reduce burnout. **Encouraging employees to disconnect** after working hours.

How Iran's pan-Islamic obsession pits it against Israel

Sandeep Singh

Is a war between Israel and Iran on the cards? Outbreak of full-scale hostilities between Israel and Iran was often feared during the last two decades. However, it was not until earlier this year that the Islamic Republic actually chose to hit Israel directly. Under Operation "True Promise", Iran fired a barrage of around 300 ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and suicide drones upon Israeli targets the night of April 13-14, 2024, almost a fortnight after Israeli airstrikes on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria (April 1) had killed 16 persons, half of whom were officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). Uzi Rubin, an expert of missile defence systems and a senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, disabuses the notion that the attack was a mere face saver aimed at inflicting minimal damages. Rubin argues that it was a strike of

unprecedented magnitude, which was even more powerful than the Russian opening strike against Ukraine in February 2022. Israel's ability to intercept and deflect these attacks was a testimony to the success of its missile defence system. Recently, Tehran saw a merit in repeating those attacks as Operation "True Promise-2," after Israel booby-trapped Hezbollah's pager devices and launched devastating airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in his secret bunker. Whether Israel retaliates or decides to tactically overlook the volley, as it did last April, is a matter of speculation. If indeed Israel seeks reprisal, it has plenty of high-value targets on the ground in Iran to choose from. They include military and intelligence sites, military command sites, oil terminals and refineries, and even nuclear reactors. Iran's poorly developed air defence system is unlikely to provide cover from Israel's vastly superior air strike.

Zakir Naik's Pakistan Visit Will Further Stoke Fire of Islamic Extremism

Abhinav

Controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik is currently on a visit to Pakistan, where he is scheduled to deliver a series of public lectures across major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, from October 5 to October 20. His arrival at the invitation of the Pakistani government has ignited considerable concern regarding the potential ramifications of Naik's ideology on a nation already wrestling with escalating fundamentalism and sectarian violence. Born in 1965, Naik is infamous for his provocative and often divisive sermons that have gained a global audience. His lectures advocate a stringent interpretation of Islam and frequently challenge the beliefs of other religions, asserting a narrative of Islamic superiority. In 2016, he fled from India amidst allegations of inciting terrorism and hatred, subsequently finding refuge in Malaysia. Since then, he has continued to attract significant attention, both from supporters who view him as a visionary promoting interfaith dialogue, and critics who contend that his rhetoric often strays into incitement, fostering fundamentalist interpretations that may lead to radicalisation. One of the most concerning aspects of Naik's influence is its documented ties to extremist groups. In the past, multiple Bangladeshi militants have openly acknowledged being inspired by his teachings. Particularly alarming is the fact that Bangladeshi youth who carried out the 2016 Dhaka café attack at the behest of ISIS ideology had cited Naik's lectures as a crucial motivating factor behind their actions. These admissions reveal a disturbing truth: Naik's sermons are

not merely educational but can act as a conduit for violent extremism. In light of this context, his forthcoming lectures in Pakistan are especially troubling. The country has long struggled with fundamentalist ideologies, resulting in the emergence of extremist factions that target minorities and incite sectarian violence. Naik's presence is poised to intensify these tensions, further polarising an already divided Pakistani society. For decades, Pakistan's landscape has been deeply scarred by religious extremism. The emergence of fundamentalist groups has not only jeopardised the secular fabric of society but has also incited violence against religious minorities. Communities such as Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Shias have endured systemic discrimination, violence, and persecution, frequently rationalised by extremist interpretations of Islam. As the nation continues to grapple with its multifaceted identity, the influx of radical ideologies presents a significant threat to its minorities.

The Pakistani government has made no efforts to counter extremist narratives and hence the societal currents of fundamentalism remain robust. The minorities in Pakistan—particularly Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Shia Muslims—are surviving in a precarious situation. Ahmadis, for instance, are legally designated as non-Muslims and have to endure persecution, violence, and even murder. The blasphemy laws, frequently exploited to target these communities, have resulted in mob violence and wrongful imprisonments. Christians and Shia Muslims also face targeted assaults from extremist factions.

Who - And What - Will Fill The Vacuum In Iran's Resistance Axis?

Saarik

The killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in Israeli airstrikes on the Dahieh suburb of Beirut, a predominantly Shia stronghold, was a tectonic event both for the group and the region. Nasrallah had been the leader of Hezbollah for over three decades. The outfit itself was designated as a terror group by the US and others in 1997, two years before even Al Qaeda was labelled as such. In response to his death, Iran has launched a ballistic missile attack against Israel, upping the ante. The crisis today for Hezbollah, founded in 1982 from the ashes of the

Lebanese Civil War, is more existential in nature than ever before. Along with Nasrallah, a majority of the group's military and political hierarchy has also been eliminated. While Israel's offensives against Hezbollah's leadership are not new, the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war, where Israel failed to deliver a thumping defeat, was a focal moment in its strategic thinking. The 2008 assassination in Syria of the group's second in command and founder of the Lebanese Islamic Jihad Organisation, Imad Mughniyeh, was a turning point, one that ultimately culminated in Israeli operations inside Lebanon over the

past two months, such as targeting communication lines used via old pagers and walkie-talkies. Moving forward, reconstructing Hezbollah in a post-Nasrallah era will not be easy. Israel, with these strikes, followed by a real threat of a region-wide escalation, may have found ample time for itself to hope for a political alternative emerging from within Lebanon, a country where Hezbollah was a state within a state and challenged the normal functioning of politics. Lebanon has had no president since 2022. Along with Nasrallah, the killing of senior Hezbollah commanders, such

as the southern front chief Ali Karaki and Iranian commander Abbas Nilforoushan, amongst others, also significantly disrupts the chain of command.

The Iranian retaliation against Israel in the form of ballistic missiles was explicitly highlighted as a response to these assassinations. The next leader of the group is widely expected to be Hashem Safieddine, a senior member and cousin of Nasrallah. Safieddine, by some accounts, is more radical and less politically astute than his predecessor. Sporting a black turban, he believes that he is a direct descendant.

Grand Mahotsav to Be Held at Shri Lodeshwar from November 17 to 23

Barabanki

The ancient and revered pilgrimage site, Shri Lodeshwar Mahadeva Dham, is set to host the grand Mahadeva Mahotsav 2025 from November 17 to 23. In preparation for the seven-day celebration, District Magistrate Shashank Tripathi held a detailed review meeting on Wednesday with officials and members of the fair committee at the Collectorate auditorium. During the meeting, it was decided that this year festival will represent a perfect blend of faith, culture and aesthetics. The DM instructed that arrangements for cultural stages, amusement rides and exhibition stalls be properly organized with priority given to local artists and groups. Calling the Mahotsav a symbol of the district religious identity and tourism pride,



the DM emphasized that no lapses in management will be tolerated. He directed officials to ensure proper arrangements for drinking water, sanitation, electricity, healthcare, security and cleanliness. To maintain crowd control, he ordered the installation of barricades, CCTV cameras and adequate deployment of police personnel. The Animal Husbandry Department was instructed to make special provisions for managing stray cattle during the event. The DM also directed officials to promote government welfare schemes through

LED vans, banners and hoardings throughout the fairground. Appealing for public cooperation he said that community participation will help the festival reach new heights of success. Among those present at the meeting were Chief Development Officer Anna Sudan, Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya, Additional SP Vikas Tripathi, SDM Gunjita Agrawal, former MLA Sharad Awasthi, temple receiver Hariprasad Dwivedi, Anil Shastri, Rajan Tiwari and several other officials and members of the fair committee.

Irrigation Department Faces Corruption Allegations, Begins Indefinite Protest

Barabanki

Amid the ongoing Rabi season, farmers in the district are distressed due to the absence of water in the canals. Their frustration has now erupted against the Minor Irrigation Department. Alleging deep-rooted corruption and negligence, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Bhanu) launched an indefinite protest on Wednesday at the premises of the Sugarcane Office in Barabanki. Farmers have accused departmental officials, particularly Assistant Engineer Rakesh Kumar Singh, of indulging in large-scale corruption and misuse of power. The union has demanded that the officer be immediately removed from the district and that his financial powers be suspended until a fair inquiry is completed.

According to the protesting farmers, the department claims



to drill 100 feet deep borewells, but in reality, only 60–70 feet of work is done—while the full payment is still released. They also alleged that HDPE pipes and diesel pumps meant for farmers are being siphoned off through fraudulent practices. Furthermore, there is discrimination in payment rates for general and Scheduled Caste farmers, despite being provided with identical materials. During the demonstration, farmers demanded that all block-level investigations be conducted under video surveillance, that representatives of the farmers' union be

included in the inquiry teams and that samples of supplied materials be tested by a certified external agency. When questioned about the dry canals and corruption allegations, Superintending Engineer Rajeev Kumar refused to comment. Farmers, however, claimed that the department silence itself speaks volumes about its functioning. They warned that if canal water is not released soon and a transparent investigation is not ensured, the union would be forced to intensify the agitation through statewide protests.

Eternal Friendship of Shri Krishna and Sudama Moves Devotees to Tears



Barabanki

On the seventh day of the seven-day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha being held at the residence of Lakshmi Narayan Shukla in Dhmedi locality of Ramnagar town, spiritual speaker Vaishnavacharya Prapannacharya Maharaj narrated the divine and emotional story of Lord Shri Krishna and his dearest friend Sudama. He said, "As long as the sun and moon exist, the friendship of Shri Krishna and Sudama will remain immortal." Maharaj explained that both Krishna and Sudama studied together at the ashram of Guru Sandipani. While Krishna became the King of Dwarka, Sudama lived a poor life as a humble Brahmin. Despite poverty, he always remained devoted to God. On the insistence of his wife Sushila, Sudama went to meet Lord Krishna in Dwarka. Upon hearing from the gatekeeper that Sudama had arrived, Lord Krishna ran barefoot to meet his friend and embraced him with immense love — setting an eternal example of true friendship. The Lord washed Sudama feet, seated him on a throne, and honored him with great affection. When Sudama returned home, by the divine grace of Lord Krishna, his humble hut transformed into a grand palace. Listening to this moving tale, the audience was visibly emotional and deeply touched. The event was attended by Lakshmi Narayan Shukla, Anil Awasthi, Madhuban Mishra, Ashish Pandey, Brijesh Shukla, Durgesh Shukla, Gopal Shukla, Umesh Pandey, Shubham Jaiswal, Lavesha Shukla and Shivam Shukla along with a large number of devotees.

Seven Drug Traffickers Arrested with 59 Kg of Illegal Cannabis

Barabanki

The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Barabanki has seized 59.245 kilograms of illegal cannabis and arrested seven active smugglers involved in the narcotics trade. The seized cannabis has an estimated international market value of around 30 lakh.

In addition to the contraband, the team also recovered 15,750 in cash, two motorcycles (including a Bajaj Platina), five Android and one keypad mobile phone and one electronic weighing scale. The operation was carried out under the leadership of the Deputy Superintendent of Police (Operational Unit,



Lucknow).

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sanjay Tripathi, Sandeep Kumar, Pankaj Vishwakarma, Ramkumar Sonkar, Rahul Yadav, Sunil Jaiswal and Sunil Kumar Patel, all residents of Kaushambi and

Pratapgarh districts.

According to ANTF Station In-charge Ayanuddin, the arrests were made at the residence of Sunil Jaiswal, located in Murain ka Purva village, under Saini police station, Kaushambi district. During interrogation, the

accused confessed that the cannabis was brought for sale at a shop owned by Sunil Jaiswal, which had been rented out to Pankaj Tripathi for conducting this illegal trade. The ANTF has registered a case under Sections 8/20/29 of the NDPS Act .

RLD Welcomes Hike in Sugarcane Support Price to 400 per Quintal

Lucknow

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has welcomed the Uttar Pradesh government decision to raise the sugarcane support price to ₹400 per quintal, calling it a major relief for farmers and a reflection of the government positive approach toward the agricultural community. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, RLD National General Secretary (Organisation) Trilok Tyagi said the move will directly benefit millions of sugarcane farmers and bring a



smile back to their faces. "This decision is a result of the government constructive outlook towards the welfare of farmers," he said. Tyagi added that RLD leader including party MLA and ministers, had been in continuous dialogue with the Chief Minister over the past few days, pressing for an increase in cane prices. "The government decision shows

that our persistent efforts and farmer-centric policies are yielding results," he noted. He further emphasized that RLD has always stood as the true voice of farmers, consistently advocating for fair crop prices, economic empowerment of cultivators and strengthening of the rural economy. The announcement has sparked widespread joy among sugarcane growers with many expressing their gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RLD National President Chaudhary Jayant Singh for championing their cause.

Mystery Deepens in Nikita Mahana Death Case: Family Alleges Dowry Murder

Lucknow

The mysterious death of Nikita Mahana, wife of Lucknow-based cement businessman Parth Mahana has sparked outrage and public debate across Uttar Pradesh. Alleging harassment and murder over dowry, Nikita family has launched an online campaign— #JusticeForNikitaMahan a — demanding a thorough and impartial investigation. They have also warned of a protest at Delhi Jantar Mantar if justice is delayed.(Found Unconscious Under Suspicious Circumstances)According to police sources, the incident took place late on the night of October 18 at the couple residence in the Krishnanagar area of Lucknow. Parth Mahana was reportedly present at home when his wife was found unconscious under suspicious circumstances. Nikita a Delhi native, had married

Parth in December 2022. Her mother, Sunita has accused the in-laws of persistently demanding ₹15 lakh in dowry and subjecting Nikita to mental and physical torture. She claims that the family influence initially prevented prompt police action.(He Delayed Taking Her to Hospital," Alleges Sister)In a shocking revelation, Nikita sister Muskan stated that Parth called her around 3 a.m. following a domestic dispute. During a video call, Muskan allegedly saw Nikita lying unconscious on the floor. She further claimed that Parth delayed taking her sister to the hospital and kept misleading the family about her condition. When their mother tried calling around 7 a.m. the family was finally informed that Nikita had died. Muskan also alleged that Parth was addicted to drugs and alcohol and that his business had suffered major losses recently.

Adding another disturbing layer, Muskan accused Parth sister, Shreya Mahana of inappropriate behavior, claiming that whenever she visited Lucknow she would sleep between her brother and sister-in-law—a detail that has fueled widespread shock and speculation.(Husband Arrested, Police Probe Underway)DCP South Nipun Agarwal confirmed that an FIR was filed immediately upon receiving the family written complaint and Parth Mahana has been arrested and sent to jail. Police are now investigating the possible involvement of other family members in the case.As the probe widens the #JusticeForNikitaMahan a movement continues to gain traction online with activists and women groups demanding swift action and a transparent investigation into what they describe as a "clear case of dowry-related homicide.

Mohlakshika Shines in District Gymnastics, Wins Double Gold.La Martiniere Girls student qualifies for State Championship in Prayagraj



Lucknow

Showcasing remarkable talent and determination, Mohlakshika Singh, a Class 1 student of La Martiniere Girls. College, Lucknow, bagged two gold medals in the district-level Aerobic Gymnastics (National Development Category) competition—one in the Individual event and another in the Trio category. The cham-

pionship was held at Lucknow Public School, Sector-4, Vrindavan Yojana, where young gymnasts from across the district competed with great enthusiasm. Mohlakshika stellar performance has earned her a well-deserved selection for the state-level gymnastics competition to be held in Prayagraj this November. Congratulating her on the achievement,

Jyoti Verma, Secretary of the organizing committee and Coach Manish Tripathi expressed pride in her success and extended best wishes for her bright future. In the individual category, Angela secured the second position, while Nevika Singh stood third. Mohlakshika victory has brought laurels to her school and inspired many budding athletes across the city.

Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha meeting concludes

Gonda

An important meeting of the Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha was held yesterday evening at the city Jhulelal Sindhi Dharamshala. Sindhi community spokesperson Kishan Rajpal stated that the meeting was attended by Ashok Agnani, State President of the Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha from Kanpur, Girdhari Chandani, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha Kanpur City and Deepak Anshwani, coordinator of the Sindhu Darshan Yatra. The visiting officials were initially welcomed by Rajkumar Thakur, head of the Sindhi community, Mathura Das Ladhani, President of the Sant Asuda Ram Seva Samiti and other members of the community, by presenting them with robes and garlands. On this occasion, Agnani stated that the organization needs to be further strengthened in Gonda. To achieve this, a separate women's wing must be established and the organization service work must be accelerated. Every official of the organization should consider themselves the state president and carry out their service work with the same enthusiasm. Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha is a part of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Service work should be carried out according to the guidelines of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Present at the meeting were Anil Jigyasu, Department President of the Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha, Rajesh Raichandani, Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Dashrath Valecha, District President of the Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha and Prakash Roytani, General Secretary.

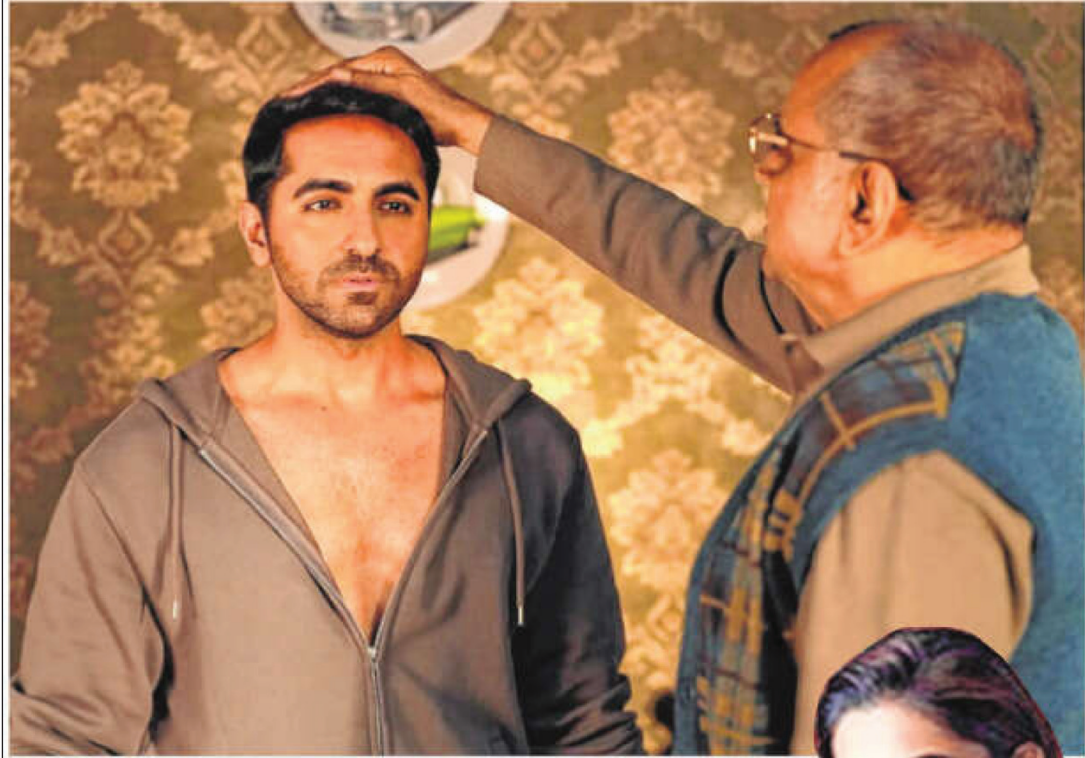


‘Felt like my guardian angel blessed me’

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana gets emotional, says Paresh Rawal in *Thamma* reminded him of his father



Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, whose latest release *Thamma* starring Rashmika Mandanna has crossed the ₹50 crore mark at the box office within just three days of its release, penned an emotional note on his social media handle expressing gratitude to his family and describing the success of *Thamma* as a ‘beautiful divine light.’



AI Naina debuts on Instagram

AI Naina, India’s first AI influencer, debuts in Instagram micro-drama *Truth & Lies*, showcasing emotions, technology and storytelling innovation

AI Naina, India’s first AI influencer, has stepped into acting with the 12-episode micro-drama series *Truth & Lies*, now streaming on Instagram Reels. The series marks a bold experiment in AI-driven storytelling, exploring friendship, betrayal, and choices made when trust is tested.



ving consumption habits of audiences who prefer bite-sized content. Abhishek Razdan, Co-founder and CEO of Avtr Meta Labs, said, “Naina made waves as India’s first AI influencer, captivating audiences with her distinct personality. *Truth & Lies* marks a new chapter in AI storytelling, reflecting human emotions through technology. It’s entertainment evolving in real time.”

The series is also notable for being created entirely by an all-women crew, showcasing fresh voices in India’s content ecosystem. *Truth & Lies* is now streaming on Instagram Reels.



Truth behind Deepika’s tweet

After the makers of *Spirit* unveiled an explosive audio teaser in five languages, troll accounts targeting actress Deepika Padukone jumped on the bandwagon, attempting to capitalize on the hype by posting misleading comments online. A fake social media profile pretending to be Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone shared a reaction to Prabhas’ first look from *Spirit*. The post claimed that Deepika was ‘sad’ but found the teaser ‘wonderful.’

The viral post came from a fake account impersonating her, misleading fans online after Vanga unveiled the first audio teaser of *Spirit*, which was released in five Indian languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. “I am sad but wonderful video Sandeep Reddy and happy birthday #Prabhas sir,” the tweet read. For those who do not know, Deepika was replaced by Tripti Dimri in Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s next.

Although the exact reason for her exit is not known, if the reports are to be believed, the director was discouraged by the long list of demands from Deepika, which reportedly included

Fake Deepika Padukone post misleads fans after *Spirit* audio teaser release; trolls exploit hype surrounding Prabhas’ upcoming film

limited working hours, a significant paycheck, and a share in the film’s profits. Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga wished Prabhas on his birthday by dropping the first ‘sound story’ from *Spirit*. He took to his X (Earlier known as Twitter) handle and dropped the audio teaser of the film in five Indian languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Vivek Oberoi joins Prabhas in *Spirit*

Actor Vivek Oberoi will be seen playing a pivotal role in Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s directorial *Spirit*, which already stars Prabhas as the main lead. On Prabhas’ birthday on Thursday, Sandeep Reddy Vanga shared the film’s audio teaser in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, revealing Prakash Raj and Vivek as key cast members.



Saiyami’s Rome run

Actress and fitness enthusiast Saiyami Kher made the most of her holidays this year by combining two of her greatest joys: family time and running. Saiyami, who is known for her disciplined fitness regime and passion for endurance sports, spent her vacation in Rome with her parents and sister.

While enjoying the beautiful sights, history, and cuisine of the Eternal City, she didn’t miss the chance to lace up her shoes and participate in the Half Rome Marathon. Known for her participation in Ironman triathlons and long-distance runs, Saiyami has often spoken about how fitness is not just a part of her routine but a lifestyle. Even during her travels, she ensures to include some form of physical activity and this time, it turned into a memorable experience shared with her family.

Sharing her thoughts, Saiyami said, “The world they are...

Saiyami Kher turns her Roman holiday into a marathon memory, participates in and completes the 2025 Rome Marathon

“The best way to see a city is on foot...running through its streets and feeling its energy. Every time I travel, I try to do a half marathon there. It’s my favourite way to explore. Rome honestly has to be one of the prettiest runs I’ve ever done. From the Spanish Steps to the Trevi Fountain and finishing at the Colosseum, it felt like running through a postcard. The weather was perfect, the air was fresh, and every corner had some piece of history waiting for me. There were moments I forgot I was even racing. I was just grinning and soaking it all in. And after 21 kms through the heart of Rome, I definitely earned every slice of pizza and gelato that followed.”

For Saiyami, the trip to Rome was not just about sightseeing but also about creating lasting memories through her passion for running. Balancing her love for family and fitness, she continues to inspire her followers to live a holistic, active, and fulfilling life wherever in the



Brave 24-hour shoot

Sudheer & Sonakshi endure 24-hour shoot for *Jatadhara* climax, promising a visually stunning, action-packed supernatural thriller



Sudheer Babu

Sonakshi Sinha



First look of the *Jatadhara*

With just two weeks to go for the release of the highly anticipated supernatural thriller *Jatadhara*, excitement among fans is at an all-time high. Every teaser and trailer has left audiences hooked on the Sudheer Babu-Sonakshi Sinha starrer, promising a cinematic experience unlike anything seen before.

An extraordinary revelation has now added to the buzz: the lead actors filmed the movie’s massive climax non-stop for 24 hours over multiple days, showcasing endurance and commitment rarely seen in Indian cinema.

Directed by Venkat Kalyan and Abhishek Jaiswal, *Jatadhara* is a visually spectacular supernatural journey blending mythology, black magic, ancient curses, and a mystic treasure hunt, culminating in a battle between light and darkness. The film’s climax, de-

scribed by the team as “one of the most challenging ever mounted,” involved large-scale sets, complex choreography, and emotionally charged performances that pushed the actors to their limits. Producer Shivin Narang commented, “The climax is the soul of *Jatadhara* — where two powerful forces collide. Sudheer Babu and Sonakshi Sinha shot continuously for 24 hours over three days, giving everything physically, mentally, and emotionally. It’s one of the toughest, most ambitious climaxes you’ll ever see on the big screen.”

Presented by Zee Studios and Prerna Arora, the film is produced by Umesh Kumar Bansal, Shivin Narang, Aruna Agarwal, Prerna Arora, Shilpa Singhal, and Nikhil Nanda, with Akshay Kejriwal and Kussum Arora as co-producers. Divya Vijay is the Creative Producer, while Bhavini Goswami serves as Supervising Producer. The immersive soundscape is curated by Zee Music Co. *Jatadhara* is set to release in Hindi and Telugu on November 7, 2025, promising a breathtaking battle between faith and fear, where myth meets madness.

Central varsities have 26% vacancies

Delhi : According to education ministry data provided with Rajya Sabha, roughly 26% of 18,951 sanctioned posts at central universities (CUs) are unfilled, with a disproportionate scarcity in reserved categories. Reserved categories—SCs, STs, and OBCs—make up 36.7% of the 4,889 open positions in 46 UGC-funded central universities. In contrast, 14.6% of general category roles are empty. Union minister of state (MoS) in education Sukanta Majumdar told Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha that 54% of 2,537 professor posts, 36.6% of 5,105 associate professor posts, and 14.5% of 11,309 assistant professor posts are unfilled. Official data shows that almost one-third of the 7,153 reserved professor jobs in CUs are vacant, despite the constitutional obligation of 15% reservation for SCs, 7.5% for STs, and 27% for OBCs to ensure adequate



Delhi Increases Olympic Winners' Cash Rewards, Approves Student Laptop Program

Delhi : Minister Ashish Sood announced that Delhi has increased cash awards for Olympic and Paralympic medalists. Mr. Sood also approved the Mukhyamantri Digital Scheme to give meritorious students free laptops. At the Delhi Secretariat, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta chaired a Cabinet meeting that made the decisions. "CM Rekha Gupta led a Cabinet meeting today. Many key decisions were made for Delhi's development, students, and youth," Mr. Sood said at a press conference. The Mukhyamantri Khel Protsahan Yojana made historic choices. Previous Olympic and Paralympic medalists received Rs 3 crore, Rs 2 crore, and Rs 1 crore. He added Olympic gold medalists will receive Rs 7 crore, silver medalists Rs 5 crore, and bronze medalists Rs 3 crore to boost the sports ecosystem. Mr. Sood declared that the Delhi government will hire gold, silver, and bronze medalists in Group A and Group B, respectively.

representation. With 40.4% of 3,688

Indian tourist permits for Chinese tourists resume after 5 years.

Delhi : India resumed Chinese visitor visas, easing bilateral relations that had been strained for six decades by a military standoff on the Line of Actual Control. The Indian embassy in Beijing announced the decision on social media roughly two months after India and China agreed in April to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after five years, the first big milestone in people-to-people contacts.

The Indian embassy in Beijing announced on WeChat that Chinese nationals could apply for tourist visas to India online. The post said applicants



may schedule document submissions in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. On condition of anonymity, sources confirmed the return of Chinese tourist visas and stated applications will begin. After border skirmishes between Chinese and Indian troops in April-May 2020 sparked the

LAC face-off in Ladakh, India placed broad visa restrictions on Chinese nationals. China did not prohibit Indian visas, but the lack of direct flights hampered visitation. Between January and June 2025, China provided 85,000 visas to Indian students, visitors, and businesspeople

RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

Delhi : India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

Qatar joins India, confirms IOC talks for 2036 Olympics and Paralympics

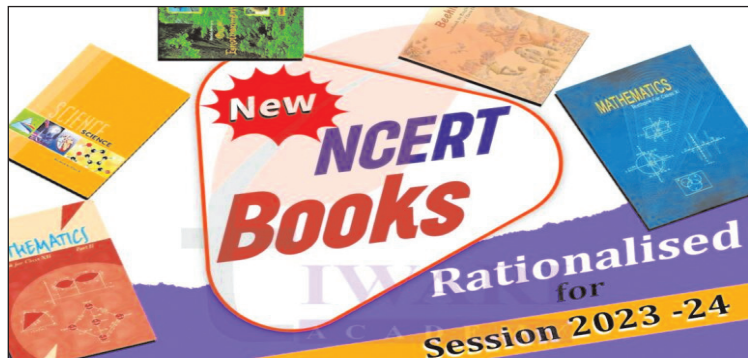


Delhi : The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) said it was discussing the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games host city voting process with the IOC, Reuters reported. After Indonesia, Turkey, India, and Chile, the country is the last to bid for the 2036 Games. It hosted the 2022 World Cup and 2024 Asian Cup. Saudi Arabia and South Korea are also exploring bids. Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and Canada are interested. "We currently have 95% of the required sports infrastructure in place to host the Games, and we have a comprehensive national plan to ensure 100% readiness of all facilities," QOC president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani told Qatar News Agency.

"This plan is based on a long-term vision to create a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable legacy." A few weeks previously, an Indian delegation met with the IOC in Lausanne, proposing Ahmedabad as the official host city. The discussion was productive. It was then revealed that the IOC's message to India was straightforward: clean up before planning the Olympics. Three sources said that the IOC raised concerns about the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)'s governance issues, the doping problem in sports, and the country's poor performance at the Olympics, finishing 71st with six medals at last year's Paris Games.

Skills like carpentry and animal care are included in the NCERT text

Delhi : The new Class 8 vocational education activity book by the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) introduces students to six projects that aim to blend practical skills with cultural and environmental awareness. These projects range from learning basic carpentry skills to building hydroponics, designing home automation circuits, caring for animals, and creating ethical advertisements for local businesses. From the ecological ethics of woodworking in the Atharva Veda to traditional veterinary treatments and the ancient floating farms of Dal Lake and Loktak Lake, this book traces the origins of vocational education in India



to India's traditional wisdom. The 202-page book titled "Kaushal Bodh" was created to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. It suggests that schools host an end-of-year exhibition called "Kaushal Mela" where stu-

dents showcase their own creations, talk about what they learned, and interact with their teachers, classmates, and community members to celebrate their talents and creativity. There are three main types of work outlined in the 2023 National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE).

Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

NEW DELHI: James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said, when asked whether his government is considering any changes in post-study work or immigration policies to retain skilled talents.

Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has once again warned medical schools that they will take legal action if their students do not receive stipends while they are in residency and internship. It is uncertain if the commission will take action this time due to a change in chairman, as no measures were implemented following comparable threats in 2023 and 2024. The National Medical Colleges Council (NMC) warned three months ago to fine medical schools Rs 50,000 for not pro-



viding stipends, even though these schools save crores of rupees annually. All medical schools are required by NMC laws to pay their interns and residents the same amount as the state government medical schools. Medical schools, universities, and state directorates of medical education

were tasked with resolving student complaints three days prior to the most recent public notice, which was dated July 11, by NMC. Still, it's threatening to take measures including financial fines, course recognition removal, and admission suspension.

UGC stops research projects due to lack of funds from central govt

Delhi: The University Grants Commission has stopped several research projects while some are lying dormant allegedly because of lack of funds from the Centre. The Major Research Project (MRP) of higher education regulator UGC is a case in point. (See chart) According to the annual reports of the UGC, funding for the scheme has been declining over the past five years as it has been declared "closed". The number of existing beneficiaries has been decreasing as researchers finish their projects. A retired academic blamed poor research proposals for the decline in funding. The UGC secretary is yet to respond to a query from this newspaper on the closure of the projects.

The UGC website suggests that around half a dozen



An uptick in enrollment in foundational engineering courses

Delhi : A change in parental and student choices is beginning to show itself in the continuing admissions process at engineering universities. Mechanical, civil, chemical, and aerospace engineering, among others, continue to enjoy strong interest and see brisk enrollment, on par with computer science programs. This willingness to explore fields outside of computer science is being propelled by a number of causes. According to academics and students who spoke with businessline, some of the main factors are the following: the increasing number of job prospects in core engineering streams, students' preference for taking minors that focus on emerging technologies, and the trend toward students acquiring stronger domain expertise.

other research promotion schemes have been shelved.

Over 70% of Delhi University students decide to stay for the 4th year under the new FYUP

Delhi : Delhi University (DU) administrators announced that over 70% of third-year students had elected to remain on for an additional year under the new curriculum a week before the first fourth-year undergraduate class begins. Data is tentative as of July 24. Dean of academic affairs Ratnabali K said, "While the final data will reveal more accurate trends, initial observations show that peripheral colleges have higher fourth-year retention rates, whereas top-ranking colleges have slightly lower retention. One factor may be because students in these universities choose traditional postgraduate programs. Students can drop out of the fourth year through the university's portal until



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

Delhi: Samsung may move some smartphone production from Vietnam if US tariffs drop in India. The world's largest smartphone maker would follow Apple in making India a top US smartphone manufacturing base. Samsung manufactures in various countries. Due to heightened US uncertainty, we are ready for several possibilities.

August 1. Vice chancellor Yogesh Singh said, "While the portal for opting out of fourth year is still open, as of now, 20,221 students have decided to exit

out of the 72,000 seats." The new Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) created under the National Education Policy (NEP).

Government schools with smart classrooms and AI tools

Delhi : Delhi education minister Ashish Sood attended an orientation for Nursery, KG, Class I children and their parents at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Chirag Dilli. Principals, teachers, and the director of education attended the start of the new academic year. Sood praised parents for choosing Delhi government schools. "Every child in Delhi deserves a modern, inclusive and inspiring learning environment," he remarked. "Many of you are taking your kids to school for the first time and wonder, 'Is my child safe? Will they be looked after?' We started orientation programs for that reason." He continued, "Delhi government is devoted to improving education."

We emphasize academic success and comprehensive development for all children." "Nearly 40 years ago, these institutions produced doctors, engineers, IAS officers, scientists, and actors. According to him, government schools are increasingly seen as inferior to private ones. "I want to assure you that your child studying in a government school can achieve just as much, if not more." Smart classrooms, AI tools, and computer laboratories will be installed in our schools during the next five years. Sood said these upgrades will prepare kids for a quickly changing environment. He also highlighted government student initiatives. "We provide scholarships for SC and ST students to ensure no child is left behind due to lack of resources. Our teachers volunteer to teach pupils who need academic help during summer holidays."

Rohit Sharma creates history in ICC ODI Rankings; joins elite list of Indian batters

● In a historic achievement, former India captain Rohit Sharma became the oldest player to reach the No. 1 position in the ICC ODI batting rankings

In a historic achievement, former India captain Rohit Sharma became the oldest player to reach the No. 1 position in the ICC ODI batting rankings on Wednesday, October 29. At 38 years and 182 days old, the Mumbai cricketer moved up two places to claim the top spot for the first time in his career, replacing Indian captain Shubman Gill. Rohit's ascent to the number one position came after his impressive performances in the recent ODI series against Australia. He scored 73 runs from 97 balls in the second ODI at Adelaide Oval on October 23, followed by an unbeaten 121 runs from 125 balls in the third match at Sydney Cricket Ground on He



A drop catch and a duck: Babar Azam's forgettable T20I comeback

NEW DELHI: Babar Azam's much-anticipated return to T20 internationals turned into a nightmare on Tuesday as Pakistan crashed to a 55-run defeat against an under-strength South Africa in the series opener at Rawalpindi. Making

becomes the fifth Indian player to reach this

his first T20I appearance since December 2024, Babar's comeback lasted just two balls before he was dismissed for a duck, offering a simple catch to Reeza Hendricks at cover. The dismissal stunned a packed 16,000-strong crowd.

milestone, following in the footsteps of Sachin

Can South Africa women overcome frailty against spin in crucial semifinal?

GUWAHATI: Both started their World Cup campaign at this very venue four-weeks ago, against each other, but South Africa and England have had very different paths to the knockouts. When they meet at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium here in the first semifinal on Wednesday, South

Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virat Kohli, and Shubman Gill. The veteran batter's rating points increased significantly from his previous week's total of 745 points due to these two substantial innings. The rankings update also saw significant movement for other

Africa will hope to bury the ghost of that ignominious campaign opener against the four-time champions for a place in the final. On Oct 3, the Proteas started their quest for their maiden ODI World Cup trophy with a 69 all out against the same opponents. Then they recovered to play some good cricket.

India batters. Gill dropped to third position following a disappointing series where he could only manage scores of 10, 9, and 24 runs across the three matches. Kohli, another prominent figure in Indian cricket, maintained his fifth position in the rankings.

New Zealand beat reckless England despite Jofra Archer's brilliance

New Zealand secured a series victory against England with a five-wicket win in the second ODI at Hamilton on Wednesday, despite Jofra Archer's impressive return to bowling. The Black Caps successfully chased down England's modest total of 175, which came after the visitors were bowled out in just 36 overs. The win gave New Zealand an unsailable 2-0 lead in the



three-match series, following their four-wicket victory in Mount Maunganui on Sunday. 'When your life situation changes...' Kane Williamson drops a massive hint on New Zealand future

England's batting display was characterised by inconsistency, with no partnership lasting beyond six overs or exceeding 38 runs after New Zealand won the toss and elected to field.

Meet the doctors who have led Shreyas Iyer's recovery after nasty fall in Sydney



His condition is now stable, and he continues to be under observation

India's ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has been moved out of the Intensive Care Unit in a Sydney hospital and is now in stable condition after suffering a ruptured spleen and rib cage injury during the third match against Australia, the BCCI announced on Tuesday. Iyer sustained the injury while attempting to catch Alex Carey off Harshit Rana's bowling. He initially walked off the field with the physio's assistance, but his condition worsened as his vital parameters dropped, leading to immediate hospitalization. BCCI's head of medical services, Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, and team doctor Rizwan

Khan are monitoring Shreyas' progress. It is understood that Dr. Pardiwala is in Mumbai and is constantly in touch with Dr. Rizwan, who stayed back with Shreyas in Sydney. Shreyas Iyer in hospital with lacerated spleen Dr. Pardiwala praised the on-field medical staff for their quick response that helped prevent a potentially critical situation. Medical tests revealed internal bleeding from a lacerated spleen, requiring his admission to the ICU for close monitoring. "The injury was promptly identified, and the bleeding was immediately arrested. His condition is now stable, and he continues to be under observation. A repeat scan done on Tuesday, October 28, has shown significant improvement, and Shreyas is on the road to recovery," the BCCI statement said.

Shami doesn't need a certificate': Bengal coach fires back at Agarkar



NEW DELHI: Bengal head coach Laxmi Ratan Shukla has thrown his full weight behind senior India pacer Mohammed Shami, launching a veiled but pointed dig at chief selector Ajit Agarkar amid the ongoing debate over team selection and fitness communication. Following Shami's brilliant eight-wicket match haul in Bengal's 141-run win over Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy, Shukla hailed the veteran as a "self-made certificate" of excellence and discipline — a direct rebuttal to those questioning his readiness for international cricket. 'Practically impossible to have three captains': Ajit Agarkar explains why Shubman Gill succeeded Rohit Sharma as ODI skipper "You all saw how Shami bowled. There's

nothing for me to add. His performance said it all. There's no question about his commitment," Shukla said. "The entire world knows what Mohammed Shami is. He doesn't need a certificate from anyone; his bowling is the certificate. He's completely fit." The statement comes weeks after Agarkar had cited Shami's lack of recent game time and fitness issues as reasons for leaving him out of India's Test squad. Shami, who underwent ankle surgery earlier this year, has since silenced doubts with 15 wickets in just two Ranji games, proving his form and fitness emphatically. Shukla also lauded Shami's work ethic and insisted that Bengal are managing his workload sensibly despite his eagerness to play every game.

'Why should anyone bother to play Ranji?': Tharoor calls Sarfaraz India A absence an 'outrage'

The growing debate over India's selection policies took a fresh turn

NEW DELHI: The growing debate over India's selection policies took a fresh turn after senior Indian cricketers expressed frustration over being overlooked despite strong domestic performances. Joining the chorus, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor voiced his anger over the omission of prolific batter Sarfaraz Khan, calling it an "outrage" and a damning reflection of how domestic cricket is undervalued in the selection process.



Taking to social media, Tharoor wrote: "This is frankly an outrage. @SarfarazA_54 averages 65-plus in first-class cricket, scored a fifty on Test debut and a 150 in a Test we lost, made 92 in his only tour match in England (and a century in the practice match against the full Indian Test team) — and still finds himself excluded from the selectors' frame of reference." Tharoor's Remark on

India-Pak Asia Cup Handshake Stirs Controversy, BJP Retaliates Tharoor went on to defend other seasoned campaigners who continue to perform in the domestic circuit but remain out of national reckoning. "I am very glad to see @ajink-yarahane88, @PrithviShaw and @karun126 making runs in the #RanjiTrophy. Our selectors are too quick

Tharoor's remarks come amid a rare wave of public dissent

Shashi Tharoor's remarks come amid a rare wave of public dissent from top Indian players over the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee's approach, with many citing poor communication and inconsistent evaluation criteria. Pacer Shami recently questioned the "come-back" narrative after a five-wicket haul

to discard proven talent in order to take a punt on 'potential.' Runs in domestic cricket must be valued, not just the #IPL; otherwise why should anyone bother to play the Ranji?"

Is Suryakumar the batter paying the price for being ultra-aggressive?



modest average of 18. Overall, this year Surya has scored just 100 runs in 11 innings at an average of 11. Are the 360-degree batter's scoops,

paddle sweeps and upper cuts not paying him the returns that they once did? As captain, too, he averages only 25.2 in 29 games, com-

pared to an average of 43.4 in 61 matches purely as a batter in the team. Incidentally, the selectors recently appointed India's Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill as Surya's deputy in the T20 format. Are they looking at Gill as all-format captain in the near future?

The 35-year-old Surya, however, is unbothered by his lack of runs. "I feel I've been

working hard. I've had a good few sessions back home, good 2-3 sessions here, so I'm in good space. Runs, it will come eventually, but I'm working hard towards the team goal. It's more important what the team wants from you in different situations. I take one game at a time. If it starts (the flow of runs from his bat), it will be a good thing," Surya told reporters on the eve

of the first T20I. The good thing for Surya is that his coach, Gautam Gambhir, is backing him to the hilt. "Honestly, Surya's batting form doesn't concern me because we have committed to an ultra-aggressive template in our dressing room. When you embrace this philosophy, failures are inevitable," the Indian coach told JioHotstar recently

A key feature of this round is the domestic exclusivity window for residents of the three host nations

FIFA begins second phase of 2026 World Cup ticket sales, offers exclusive window for US, Canada, Mexico



FIFA officially launched the second phase of ticket sales for the 2026 World Cup on Monday, putting another 1 million tickets up for grabs. This new phase

marks the opening of a global ticket draw, which will run until 11 a.m. Eastern Time on Friday. A key feature of this round is the domestic

exclusivity window for residents of the three host nations — the United States, Canada, and Mexico. During this period, local fans whose entries are selected in the draw will have the first chance to buy single-match tickets for games held in their respective countries. According to Heimo Schirgi, FIFA's Chief Operating Officer for the tournament, interest in tickets has already been "massive" both

globally and within the host nations. "This second phase, with its host country domestic exclusivity time slot, will allow us to say thank you to these local fans, while ensuring global opportunity as well," Schirgi said. Fans from the three host nations can enter the draw until Friday. Winners will be randomly selected and granted a specific time slot between November 12 and 15 to make their ticket purchases.

Notifications will be sent out at least 48 hours in advance. So far, residents of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico have led ticket purchases, followed by fans from England, Germany, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Argentina, and France. After the domestic phase ends, more slots will open globally from November 17, with further sales rounds to follow. Over 1 million tickets have already

Is Travis Kelce ready to say goodbye to Chiefs?

Travis Kelce sent shockwaves through Chiefs Kingdom on Monday night when he hinted at a possible retirement — just moments after leading Kansas City to a commanding 28-7 victory over the Washington Commanders. The 36-year-old tight end, who once again proved why he's among the NFL's greatest, may have played one of his final chapters under the bright lights. Travis Kelce sparks retirement buzz with heartfelt post-game comments

Kelce delivered a vintage performance, pulling in six receptions for 99 yards and a crucial touchdown that helped the Chiefs extend their winning streak. But it wasn't the numbers that got fans talking — it was what came after. Speaking with ESPN's Scott Van Pelt, Kelce dropped a line that had fans wondering if this was his subtle goodbye. "We're cherishing every single one of these games, not knowing how long we'll be able to do this," he said.